United Nations A/53/382

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 August 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Item 105 of the provisional agenda*
International drug control

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1-11	3
	A. Action taken by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs	3-4	3
	B. Evaluation of progress made and recommendations to improve implementation	5-11	3
II.	Prevention and reduction of drug abuse with a view to the elimination of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	12-17	4
III.	Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts	18-21	5
IV.	Control of supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	22-47	5
	A. Eradication and substitution of the illicit production of narcotic drugs; eradication of the illicit processing of narcotic drugs; and eradication of the illicit production and diversion of psychotropic substances	22-26	5
	B. Licit production, manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	27-30	6
	C. Cooperation at the multilateral level	31-45	7
	D. Monitoring and control mechanisms	46-47	9

* A/53/150

98-27885 (E) 250998

V.	Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	48-52	9
VI.	Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system	53-58	10
VII.	Strengthening of judicial and legal systems, including law enforcement	59-61	11
VIII.	Measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking by vessels, aircraft and vehicles	62-64	11
IX.	United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, covering the years 1991-2000	65-67	12
X.	Resources and structure	68-70	12

I. Introduction

1. The present report is structured thematically along the lines of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, on 23 February 1990. Each section contains a general overview of approaches and policies developed by States individually or in cooperation with other States or with international organizations. Concrete examples of programmes and measures implemented at the national level have also been included. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/168 of 23 December 1994, 50/148 of 21 December 1995 and 52/92 of 12 December 1997, the report contains an evaluation of progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and recommendations on ways and means of improving implementation.

2. To facilitate reporting, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 4 (XXXVII), a questionnaire was sent to all Governments soliciting information on activities undertaken to implement the Global Programme of Action. As at 7 August 1998, replies had been received from 54 States. In view of the level of response, information submitted by Governments has been complemented by information from other official sources.

A. Action taken by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

3. In its resolution 52/92, section II, the General Assembly urged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to complete its work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction developed by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in consultation with Member States. At its second session, the Commission acting as preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly completed its work and submitted for adoption by the Assembly the draft Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. The Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, held from 8 to 10 June 1998.

4. At its second session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as a preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, also completed its work with regard to the preparation of a draft political declaration and of action plans against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, on control of precursors, on measures to promote judicial cooperation, on countering money-laundering and on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development programmes and projects. The Assembly at its twentieth special session adopted the following resolutions: resolution S-20/2, on the Political Declaration; resolution S-20/3, on the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and resolution S-20/4, on measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem. Each of the resolutions has a bearing on the themes of the Global Programme of Action.

B. Evaluation of progress made and recommendations to improve implementation

5. In 1998, several Governments have reported the implementation of demand reduction programmes and the launching of public awareness campaigns related to those programmes. Specially designed national programmes to prevent drug abuse among youth, which include the training of education and health-care personnel, are being implemented in many States or are one of the top priorities of Governments. A number of Governments, in developing national master plans, are seeking bilateral or international assistance to complement their efforts in that area. In implementing their national policies and programmes against drug abuse, Governments should develop assessment methods in order to benefit from the evaluation of their national strategies to combat drug abuse. The programmes should also promote better multisectoral and intersectoral coordination as an integral part of national development planning.

6. Treatment for drug abusers has been provided by the majority of Governments and, in some countries, specialized training has also been provided for personnel employed in the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. One Government has reported the amendment of national legislation to allow drug addicts to seek treatment without fear of being prosecuted. In some countries, treatment is exclusively provided in psychiatric hospitals or wards. In some others, treatment and rehabilitation are compulsory. Some Governments have stated that, in their countries, treatment does not extend beyond detoxification because the lack of financial resources has prevented the creation of rehabilitation and social reintegration centres. More efforts should be made to improve treatment beyond detoxification and to effectively coordinate action between Governments, the

private sector and non-governmental organizations to strengthen programmes of rehabilitation and social reintegration.

7. In the past year, campaigns to eradicate cannabis plants, coca bush and poppy straw have been carried out by several Governments, as have illicit crop substitution programmes. Thousands of hectares of illicitly cultivated crops have been destroyed and laboratories have been dismantled by national drug law enforcement agencies, in some cases in cooperation with other Governments. Most Governments are adopting or implementing stringent regulations to control chemical precursors in order to prevent illicit diversion of those substances. In various areas of the world, alternative development programmes are strongly needed to prevent the spread of illicit crop cultivation and further escalation of crime and drug trafficking. Some Governments have called for more joint programmes with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in the areas of alternative development and prevention policies.

8. Governments have intensified their efforts to stop criminal activities related to illicit drug trafficking. Several Governments have reported considerable seizures of drugs as well as the strengthening of border, seaport and airport controls. They have also adopted measures to improve coordination among national drug law enforcement agencies. Strengthening cooperation at the regional and international levels in the form of joint operations and training, controlled deliveries, information exchange and mutual legal assistance is regarded as an effective means of countering illicit drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Some Governments have reported having improved cooperation with international organizations, especially in the area of information exchange. Technical assistance in the form of communication equipment and information systems is needed in some countries to effectively combat criminal activities related to illicit drug trafficking.

9. Legislation against money-laundering has been adopted or is being considered for adoption in many countries. Some Governments have carried out reviews of their money-laundering legislation and amended provisions to make money-laundering more difficult. Some States, however, have not yet adopted the necessary administrative, legislative and penal measures on money derived from illicit drug trafficking. In several States, stricter laws have been adopted against drug-related offences, and judicial cooperation is being carried out, especially in the field of extradition.

10. Some States have adopted new provisions in their legislation to prevent international trafficking in arms and explosives. Some Governments have reported the establishment of special law enforcement units to more effectively combat arms trafficking and stricter controls have been established for aircraft and vessels. Numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed or are in the process of being signed in order to improve the effectiveness of the fight against the illicit trade in arms, explosives and ammunition. Governments may wish to continue their efforts to identify new modalities for preventing international criminal activities associated with illicit drug trafficking.

11. Only 54 Governments have replied to the questionnaire on activities undertaken by Member States in 1997 relating to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; there is a need for more Governments to submit replies to the questionnaire conscientiously and promptly, so that the Secretary-General, through his annual report, can effectively contribute to the evaluation of the progress made. Governments may also wish to consider whether to decide to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action every two years. By doing so, Governments would have a longer period of time to provide information on the subject.

II. Prevention and reduction of drug abuse with a view to the elimination of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

12. The vast majority of Governments have reported activities relating to the prevention of drug abuse, although the kind and level varied greatly. The two most common activities have been (a) activities targeting schools and (b) general awareness campaigns, such as the ad hoc provision of information to the population using printed materials or the mass media.

13. Prevention activities in schools have ranged from the distribution of printed material and videos to the introduction of drug prevention messages in the curriculum, the training of teachers or the organization of extracurricular activities. Some Governments have specifically mentioned having provided life skills to students; others have reported the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The use of the school as a way to reach the community has also been reported. In a few cases, the activities, inspired by

the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) model of New Zealand, have involved police forces.

14. The majority of the reported activities have been directed at drug abuse in the community. Several Governments have mentioned the involvement of non-governmental organizations in prevention activities; in one case, religious authorities were involved. The police have also been involved in prevention efforts at the community level. Some Governments have reported the development of plans and activities at the regional level, while others have reported on their contributions to other countries in setting up prevention programmes for youth.

15. Some Governments have reported activities targeting special groups such as high-risk groups (street children, ethnic minorities) and, to an equal extent, the family, professionals in the mass media and prisoners.

16. Young people are usually considered a target population and sometimes a problem instead of a resource in the prevention of drug abuse. Comprehensive prevention strategies are being designed in consultation with young people and those working with them.

17. UNDCP has supported the establishment of a global network of youth programmes to function as antennas for monitoring emerging trends and as sites for testing new prevention approaches. Young people involved in such programmes met for the first time at a drug abuse prevention forum held at Banff, Canada, from 14 to 18 April 1998. The collective experience and insight of the young delegates were expressed in the Vision from Banff, containing a number of recommendations to be presented to government representatives attending the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

III. Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts

18. The majority of the reporting Governments appeared to have fewer activities in the field of treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts than in the field of prevention. Many Governments have reported activities involving the treatment of drug addicts. Only a few have reported efforts or plans aimed at social reintegration; some of those reported a multidisciplinary approach involving various social institutions.

19. Several Governments have reported treatment consisting mainly of detoxification care in emergency or mental health departments of hospitals. Other Governments have reported that the services offered in their countries are insufficient to meet the needs of the population, either because of lack of resources or because the drug abuse problem has rapidly changed or increased. Some Governments have reported being in the process of assessing their institutional capability with a view to improving the situation. Many have reported having stepped up their capacity-building efforts through training or through the creation of new service centres.

20. In some countries, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts are offered in in-patient facilities whereas out-patient facilities used for such treatment and rehabilitation are rare. Some Governments have reported the contribution of non-governmental organizations to treatment and rehabilitation. Some Governments have reported using methadone maintenance in their treatment programmes. A few have reported the use of compulsory treatment. In one country, legislation has recently been amended to allow drug addicts to seek treatment without fear of being prosecuted.

21. A few Governments have reported activities aimed at reducing the risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); those activities have included awareness-raising programmes and the exchange of needles and syringes.

IV. Control of supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

A. Eradication and substitution of the illicit production of narcotic drugs; eradication of the illicit processing of narcotic drugs; and eradication of the illicit production and diversion of psychotropic substances

22. Several Governments have reported making great efforts to eradicate the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants, coca bush and poppy straw. Thousands of hectares of illicitly cultivated crops have been destroyed, laboratories for the production of illicit narcotic drugs have been dismantled, landing strips have been destroyed and planes and vehicles belonging to drug traffickers have been confiscated. All those activities have been conducted by national drug law enforcement agencies and, in some cases, in cooperation with other Governments. Alternative development and crop substitution programmes are currently being carried out in several countries. Some Governments, however, are in need of more financial and

technical assistance from UNDCP, other intergovernmental organizations and the international community for the implementation of alternative development programmes.

23. International cooperation in the eradication of illicit drug crops and the promotion of alternative development programmes and projects, on the one hand, and the control of precursors to prevent illicit drug processing and manufacture, on the other, were two of the topics considered by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. At the special session, Member States expressed their commitment and determination to implement alternative development programmes and to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, the coca bush and the cannabis plant by the year 2008.

24. In response to the decision of the international community, UNDCP, in cooperation with other United Nations entities, is providing support to the Governments of producing countries for planning alternative development measures. The experience gained through more than two decades of alternative development, from the design stage to the implementation of projects and programmes, will be used to assist those countries in developing or strengthening national strategies and plans, as well as interventions at the community level. UNDCP will also participate in the mobilization of financial assistance for the implementation of the national plans through multisectoral programmes and projects aimed at creating the conditions at the grass-roots level for the replacement and elimination of the illicit cultivation of narcotic drugs as a source of income. UNDCP is also working on the development of a monitoring system to assist Member States in the collection of reliable information on illicit crop cultivation. The system is to be an essential tool for detecting and preventing the displacement of illicit crop cultivation from existing areas to new ones.

25. Measures to prevent the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through more effective control of the precursors and essential chemicals required in such processes were reaffirmed in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. By the year 2003, all Member States should have established or strengthened national legislation and programmes to give effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors. By 2008, there should also be significant reductions in the diversion of precursors and the illicit manufacture of, marketing of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs.

26. Drug control programmes and projects initiated by or supported by UNDCP usually incorporate measures to prevent the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In addition, drug law enforcement programmes will often include training or other forms of assistance aimed at dealing with clandestine laboratories in which drugs are illicitly produced or manufactured by criminal groups. Emphasis is also given to the need to be on the watch for the use of laboratory equipment and other instruments involved in such processing operations.

B. Licit production, manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

27. According to information furnished to the International Narcotics Control Board, in 1996, the global production of opiate raw materials was only slightly higher than the amount of opiates consumed. Codeine consumption continues to account for the bulk of opiate consumption. Judging from the trends in recent years, annual aggregate consumption of opiates is likely to rise gradually in the next few years, with some fluctuation. A balance between the demand for and the supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes was therefore achieved. For 1997, a surplus of 45 tonnes in morphine equivalent is expected, whereas for 1998 the projected surplus will be about 32 tonnes.

28. The Board continued its practice of organizing informal meetings with representatives of major producers and importers of opiate raw materials during the forty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Participants discussed the most feasible approach to achieving a lasting balance between supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1998/25 of 28 July 1998, entitled "Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs".

29. The level of consumption of methylphenidate and the rate of its increase remain alarming. This development can partly be attributed to the broadening of diagnostic definitions and criteria for attention deficit disorder (ADD). The Board has therefore requested Governments

to exercise the utmost vigilance in order to prevent over-diagnosing of ADD in children and medically unjustified treatment with methylphenidate and other stimulants.

30. The abuse of appetite suppressants for their stimulant properties has been reported in a number of countries around the world. In Argentina, Brazil, Chile and France, countries with a high level of anorectics consumption, measures have been introduced to reduce the consumption of those drugs to a medically more sound level. The Board has requested the Governments of countries in which controlled anorectics are prescribed in very high quantities to monitor the situation closely to prevent their over-prescribing, which could lead to the abuse of those substances for their stimulant properties. Additional efforts should be devoted to educational campaigns to inform the medical and pharmaceutical community and the general public of the dangers of indiscriminate medical use of stimulants. The Board has reiterated its request to the media to become involved in promoting a more responsible attitude towards the use of stimulants as anorectics.

C. Cooperation at the multilateral level

31. UNDCP is actively participating in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which involves close cooperation at the field level with UNDCP partners in the United Nations system. The Framework will be used by UNDCP as a vehicle for furthering its efforts to integrate drug control input into the programmes and activities of other United Nations entities.

32. Following the launching of the Alliance of Resource Managers against Drug Abuse (ARMADA), UNDCP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) concluded a global project on model programmes for drug abuse prevention in the community and the workplace. ARMADA, an independent and manager-led association, will advocate the adoption of prevention policies in the workplace.

33. The joint UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse is aimed at developing approaches and strategies to promote cost-effective community-based prevention of the abuse of licit and illicit psychoactive substances. UNDCP and WHO are implementing the project with the collaboration of an international consortium of non-governmental organizations working with local communities in southern Africa, south-east Asia and eastern Europe.

34. UNDCP, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WHO have launched a project involving 11 countries that has focused on the prevention and reduction of drug abuse as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and development opportunities of young people living in situations of particular vulnerability. In another project, UNAIDS and UNDCP are training 900 street educators in drug abuse prevention programmes, using cartoons tailored to young children. Approximately 15,000 street children will be reached through this project, which is aimed at helping children to develop skills needed to cope with difficult situations and to increase their ability to resist becoming involved in drug abuse.

35. At an international consultation, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDCP and the French non-governmental organization Environnement sans frontière in Paris in February 1998, 31 young participants from 25 countries, most of them active in preventive education, finalized the drafting of a charter calling for a twenty-first century free of drugs.

1. Africa

36. Over the next three years, UNDCP through a project will support the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa, adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1996, by enhancing the capacity of the OAU secretariat, which will also execute the project, to discharge its coordination, regulatory and reporting functions related to drug control. By the end of the project, there will be a fully functional drug control unit within the OAU secretariat. UNDCP experts participated in a drug control conference organized jointly by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Commission at Gaborone in February 1998. During the conference, a draft regional drug control action plan was discussed and reviewed by experts and representatives from SADC member States, donors and international organizations.

2. Asia and the Pacific

37. Concerted action is being pursued in central and south-west Asia, based on a memorandum of under-

standing signed by all central Asian countries and UNDCP in 1996 and the subregional cooperation programme prepared by UNDCP for the period 1996-1999. In January 1998, the Executive Director of UNDCP participated in the first ministerial memorandum of understanding meeting at Almaty. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved and outlined activities for the future. It also approved the accession of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network as new parties to the memorandum of understanding.

38. A joint UNDCP donor mission in Afghanistan at the end of 1997 strongly endorsed the inter-agency collaboration strategy of UNDCP. Based on suggestions made by the mission, UNDCP is revising the programme documents and involving the United Nations Office for Project Services and other United Nations entities as implementing partners.

39. The South-east Asia Subregional Action Plan, adopted by signatories to a memorandum of understanding concluded by Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, is proving instrumental in furthering cooperation efforts in south-east Asia. A workshop involving government regulatory authorities and chemical companies was successfully organized in Thailand in November 1997, resulting in the first memorandum of understanding in precursor control between the chemical companies and the government agencies. Regarding law enforcement, more cross-border meetings were held in the border areas of China, Myanmar and Thailand, contributing to increased seizures of drugs and arrests in the border areas. With respect to demand reduction efforts targeting the highlands of east Asia, a three-week workshop on community-based drug demand reduction was held at Bangkok in February and March 1998, facilitating the exchange of experiences among the representatives of countries in that subregion.

40. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, three alternative development projects currently being formulated will cover priority areas and will be coordinated with ongoing and planned efforts involving bilateral rural development assistance. An alternative development project in Xieng Khouang, formulated in March 1998, will be a joint effort involving UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Volunteers, UNFPA, the World Food Programme, ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

3. Europe and the Middle East

41. An extended multi-city study being implemented jointly with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe will involve strengthening the epidemiological research study of beneficiary countries and setting up a compatible methodology for the rapid assessment of drug abuse.

42. The programme document for drug law enforcement of PHARE (originally, Poland/Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy), to be funded mostly by the European Commission, has received endorsement from representatives of law enforcement services from beneficiary countries, European Community police and customs forces, the Customs Cooperation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

43. Drug control coordination in the member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization—Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—will be enhanced through a newly adopted regional project. The project will thus further promote drug control cooperation in that major opium-producing and drug trafficking region.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

44. The second cooperation project under the Southern Cone memorandum of understanding, which is aimed at establishing a subregional drug abuse information system and providing a training programme on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, has proved to be very successful. The Government of Chile is responsible for the coordination of the subregional data system and it is expected that in the forthcoming months, household surveys will be carried out in all participating countries under a common approach. The Governments of the subregion have encouraged non-governmental organizations to participate in subregional workshops.

45. Coordination of international cooperation in support of the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, adopted by the Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation in the Caribbean, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 15 to 17 May 1996, was further strengthened. A meeting of a technical task force to conduct a joint programme for prioritization and planning in the areas of law enforcement and maritime

cooperation, money-laundering, legislation, strengthening of drug councils, and demand reduction was organized in October 1997 by the Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism; that meeting was followed by a high-level meeting at Santo Domingo.

D. Monitoring and control mechanisms

46. An increasing number of Governments have taken effective steps to prevent the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. Concerted and decisive action has led to significant results. Early in 1997, a cocaine laboratory with a capacity to manufacture some 300 tonnes of cocaine hydrochloride annually—nearly one third of the total estimated illicit cocaine manufactured in South America—was discovered and dismantled and the chemicals were seized. Similarly, many cases involving the diversion or attempted diversion of acetic anhydride, which is used for the illicit conversion of morphine to heroin, have involved very large quantities. Large seizures of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants have limited the supply of those substances on the illicit market.

47. The International Narcotics Control Board has noted that there appears to be a certain reluctance in some key countries involved in the manufacturing or trading of chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture to introduce and adhere to strict control measures. The monitoring systems that Governments must establish, under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[1] to identify suspicious transactions require the sharing of information in order to function. There may be loopholes in some regions such as Europe that may be exploited by drug traffickers.

V. Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

48. There has been an increase in the number of States adhering to the international drug control conventions; this reflects the continuing conviction of Governments that international cooperation is a requisite for success in combating illicit drug trafficking and related criminal phenomena.

49. Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs are attended by delegates from a large number of Governments, as well as from international organizations such as Interpol and the World Customs Organization. The meetings are now more practitioner-based and action-oriented. Governments have acknowledged their importance as opportunities for coordinating regional cooperation activities in law enforcement and enhancing interdictory efforts.

50. Governments continue to supply data on illicit drug trafficking, enabling UNDCP to prepare analyses of the routes and methods used by drug traffickers. The results of the analyses, which assist Governments in the elaboration of effective countermeasures, are presented at regional meetings and at the annual sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In order to improve the quality of the analyses, UNDCP has recently finalized an agreement with Interpol and the World Customs Organization aimed at pooling information contained in reports received by the three organizations on significant individual seizures of illicit drugs. Interpol compares the collated data to identify cases of double-reporting, and the resulting information is then distributed to the three organizations on a shared ownership principle. This not only results in an expanded, agreed and more accurate data pool, but it paves the way for collaboration in the production of joint strategic analyses that are of benefit to the members of all three organizations.

51. The abuse of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs are increasing worldwide. This trend has added a new dimension to the routine work of many drug-testing laboratories in that they need to apply more specific analysis and detection techniques in order to differentiate between closely related substances that are controlled under different control regimes and thus may carry different penalties. As a consequence, Member States are increasingly requesting assistance or guidance from UNDCP in dealing with such issues at the legislative and at the chemical or analytical level.

52. Member States have indicated that there continues to be a need for technical cooperation programmes that include laboratory components such as the establishment or strengthening of drug-testing laboratories and the provision of reference samples of controlled drugs, their metabolites and precursors for comparative analytical purposes, as well as for direct scientific or technical advice on drug-related matters. They have also indicated that there is a need for specialized training of scientific staff from national drug-testing laboratories and for improved co-operation at the regional and subregional levels among such laboratories. Participation in the international quality assurance programme, run under the auspices of UNDCP, is increasingly being viewed as a valuable asset in terms of

ensuring the acceptance of laboratory analytical results in court cases, since it makes possible an assessment of the accuracy and precision of the results from a drug-testing laboratory and, consequently, an assessment of the overall performance of the laboratory. The value of scientific tools such as signature analysis and profiling in support of intelligence-gathering efforts aimed at establishing illicit drug trafficking routes and distribution patterns and at dismantling clandestine laboratories is now recognized worldwide. UNDCP assists Member States by coordinating and conducting applied scientific research into the comparative analysis of impurities in seized material, as well as by providing fellowships.

VI. Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system

53. As in previous years, Governments continued in 1997 to report the adoption of legislative and administrative measures targeting the proceeds of crime, in compliance with articles 3 and 5 of the 1988 Convention. Governments now also seek to comply with the provisions of a number of other international instruments and agreements that detail requirements for laws against money-laundering. Among those instruments are the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, adopted in 1990 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the European Commission; and the 1991 directive of the Council of the European Communities entitled "Prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering".

54. Many Governments are in the process of drafting, enacting or amending their national legislation. However, there is still only a relatively small number of States that have fully equipped themselves with the legislation and institutions necessary to take effective action against money-laundering in fulfilment of their obligations under the 1988 Convention.

55. The global programme against money-laundering, aimed at providing assistance and support to States to enable them to meet their obligations under the 1988 Convention, was initiated in October 1996 as a cooperative effort involving UNDCP and the former Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (now called the Centre for International Crime Prevention). The main achievements during its first year of operation were:

(a) The development of the Anti-Money-Laundering International Database and its Internet-based support network, the International Money-Laundering Information Network, which are now operational. The Internet site also has an electronic library, including main international legal instruments relating to money-laundering and some reference materials, as well as a calendar of events of the main international organizations active in this field;

(b) The launching of a series of studies and technical assistance materials, including: legal research on the reversal of the onus of proof in confiscation matters; an analysis of the impact of control policies on the strategy and economy of organized crime; research on bank secrecy and offshore centres; and a manual for financial investigators in money-laundering cases;

(c) The provision of assistance to States in legal matters (legal/drafting missions to Haiti, Jordan, Kazakhstan and Venezuela) with the support of the legal advisory project team; the organization of awareness-raising seminars in countries of western Africa and in the Russian Federation (sponsored by the Financial Action Task Force and the Bank of Russia) and training in Slovenia.

56. Coordination with the relevant organizations was also ensured by active participation in the work of other bodies, particularly the Financial Action Task Force, and by regular contact with Interpol, the World Customs Organization, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States.

57. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session considered as one of its key themes international action to counter money-laundering. At that session, the Member States adopted a Political Declaration in which they recommended that States that had not yet done so should adopt by the year 2003 money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the 1988 Convention. The Member States also adopted an action plan for countering money-laundering, in which they recalled the provisions of the 1988 Convention according to which all parties to the Convention were required to adopt the measures necessary to enable the authorities to identify, trace and freeze or seize the

proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. Lessons learned by States in the fight against money-laundering, such as the need to harmonize legislation, to improve the exchange of information and to cooperate in money-laundering cases, were reflected in the action plan. Also included in the action plan were principles that should form the basis for measures to counter money-laundering in three areas: legislation, financial system regulation and law enforcement. States, for instance, have endorsed an important measure, recently agreed upon by some intergovernmental bodies, on the mandatory reporting of suspicious activities and on the application of money-laundering countermeasures to "money derived from serious crimes". In the action plan, Member States also called upon the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to continue to work, within the framework of its global programme against money-laundering, providing training, advice and technical assistance.

58. A preliminary report on a major study on financial havens, banking secrecy and money-laundering, prepared by UNDCP within the framework of the global programme against money-laundering, was considered in a special panel discussion on money-laundering during the special session. The preliminary report generated a great deal of interest among Governments, the public and the media in the role of offshore financial centres and banking secrecy in relation to money-laundering.

VII. Strengthening of judicial and legal systems, including law enforcement

59. In 1997, five States became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] six States became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[3] and five States became parties to the 1988 Convention. As at 30 June 1998, 164 States were parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[4] or to that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, 157 States were parties to the 1971 Convention and 147 States were parties to the 1988 Convention.

60. While there has been a slight improvement in the enactment of legislation against money-laundering, some States, by maintaining bank secrecy laws, continue to offer safe havens for drug traffickers and other persons engaged in money-laundering. The repeal of bank secrecy laws and the enactment and enforcement of comprehensive legislation against money-laundering and in favour of asset forfeiture are crucial to the effective implementation of the international drug control conventions. Not only are bank secrecy laws an impediment to effective domestic implementation of those conventions, but they also hamper international cooperation in the context of mutual legal assistance, particularly with regard to the tracing, confiscation and forfeiture of assets and proceeds derived from drug trafficking.

61. In the area of capacity-building, a number of training programmes for law enforcement personnel have been carried out in different parts of the world. Some of the programmes have been carried out at the bilateral level by parties to the international drug control conventions, but most of them have been carried out with the assistance of UNDCP and some Governments. The persons who have received training include judges, magistrates, prosecutors, customs officials, member of the police force and, in some instances, navy officials. Recognizing the importance of pooling resources, some States are in the process of establishing regionally harmonized drug control legislation and institutions, including regional training centres for drug control law enforcement personnel.

VIII. Measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking by vessels, aircraft and vehicles

62. Several States have strengthened and/or created special law enforcement units to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and explosives. In many countries, law enforcement authorities regulate and control the possession of firearms and collect and analyse information on firearms smuggling, keeping in close contact with foreign investigative authorities. In some cases, agreements between Governments, airlines and other transportation companies have been signed to prevent illegal access to arms, explosives and drugs using aircraft and vehicles. The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Production of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials was signed in November 1997 by several Governments in Latin America.

63. Several States have carried out on a regular basis measures against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit drug trafficking using vessels, aircraft and vehicles. The exercises are carried out at the local, national and international levels. Security in airports and seaports has been reinforced in some countries. When inspections are

undertaken in airports and seaports, the use of trained dogs and equipment to detect arms and explosives has proved worthwhile in several States. In some countries, law enforcement and customs officials have received additional training in the detection of firearms, explosives and their component parts, as well as in anti-smuggling techniques. Some countries, however, need technical assistance and training in order to train their officers in the detection of arms, explosives and narcotic drugs and in anti-smuggling techniques.

64. UNDCP is executing a pilot project on maritime drug law enforcement training and model legislation. A training guide for boarding officers that was tested at the Asia-Pacific Training Seminar on Maritime Drug Law Enforcement, organized by UNDCP at Yokohama, Japan, from 27 to 31 October 1997, is now being finalized. Furthermore, an informal correspondence group of national experts has been established by UNDCP to provide assistance in the preparation of legislative and procedural guidelines against trafficking by sea, including the establishment of ship registries. Pursuant to a recommendation made during the Yokohama Training Seminar, preparations are under way concerning the establishment of an informal correspondence group in Asia and the Pacific to foster greater cooperation between competent authorities in that region. Finally, the International Maritime Organization is starting a project in Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with UNDCP, aimed at developing a model training course on combating illicit trafficking by sea.

IX. United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, covering the years 1991-2000

65. The General Assembly, in its resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990, proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. A landmark event of the Decade was the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in which the Assembly reached consensus on measures to further drug control strategies and adopted a political declaration, a declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction and a package of action-oriented measures to enhance international drug control, together with timeframes and target dates for their implementation. The twentieth special session provided Governments and the rest of the international community with an opportunity to renew their commitment to drug control worldwide and created momentum for intensified action to be taken in the coming years.

66. In the context of the mobilization of civil society, UNDCP has pursued its efforts to build up its partnership with the private sector. Three conferences have been held in that area with the participation of ILO. The last conference, organized with the Malaysian National Association at Petaling, Malaysia, in October 1997, was attended by 150 representatives from the business sector, trade unions and local communities. Likewise, under the aegis of UNDCP, ILO and WHO, a five-year model programme aimed at reducing drug and alcohol abuse among workers and their families was completed and evaluated. It benefited about 250,000 employees from 43 companies in five countries. UNDCP also extended support to non-governmental organizations and their supporting institutions, such as non-governmental organizations committees. Non-governmental organizations have continued to play an important role in the activities of the Decade. Through funds provided by the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a non-governmental organization based in Tokyo, UNDCP distributed grants totalling $500,000 to 51 non-governmental organizations from developing countries during 1997.

67. UNDCP has developed a strategy to better communicate its mission and achievements. It has mapped out a series of public information activities to raise the awareness of individuals and societies of the consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse. UNDCP has issued publications such as *World Drug Report*[5] and *UNDCP: Facing the Challenge*, featuring its achievements and success stories.

X. Resources and structure

68. The budget of UNDCP consists of two complementary parts: the regular budget, approved by the General Assembly; and the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Fund, established in 1991 by the General Assembly, is under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of UNDCP and is supported from extrabudgetary resources.

69. The total initial budget of UNDCP for the biennium 1998-1999 amounts to $165 million, of which $148.6 million, or 90 per cent, is funded from voluntary contributions under the Fund and $16.3 million, or 10 per cent, is from the regular budget of the United Nations. The total income of the Fund for the biennium 1998-1999 is estimated at $116.4 million, resulting in an expected shortfall of income over expenditure of $32.3 million.

70. The regular budget resources of UNDCP mainly finance treaty implementation and legal affairs at UNDCP headquarters. Of the resources of the Fund, $110.5 million, or about 75 per cent, are for project activities, mainly carried out in developing countries to enhance their ability to comply with treaty obligations and to counter illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. The remaining $38.1 million, or 25 per cent of the resources of the Fund, cover the cost of the network of field offices and a share of headquarters expenses. The largest share of spending is in Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by west and central Asia and east Asia and the Pacific. UNDCP also has substantial project activities in sub-Saharan Africa, central and eastern Europe and south Asia and at the global level.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[4] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

[5] United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *World Drug Report* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1997).